

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 08395 201503Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15
STR-04 CEA-01 L-03 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 ARAE-00 IO-13
/108 W

-----201524Z 103613 /56

O R 201453Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4151
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08395

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, JM, UK
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR JAMAICA

REF: (A) STATE 115152; (B) LONDON 7343

1. WE HELD LOW KEY DISCUSSION OF THE JAMAICAN PROBLEM
WITH ANGUS RAE, UNDER SECRETARY, OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT
MINISTRY (ODM) MAY 20. RAE THANKED US FOR TENTATIVE
US ASSESSMENT AND STATED THAT IT CLOSELY PARALLELS
VIEWS OF ODM'S ECONOMIST DIVISION ON STATE OF JAMAICAN
ECONOMY. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION ON UK INTENTIONS
VIS-A-VIS FUTURE AID TO JAMAICA HE REITERATED UK POSI-
TION AS OUTLINED REFTTEL B. HE STRESSED THAT THERE IS
LITTLE "FAT" LEFT IN ODM'S DIMINISHED AND ALREADY
HEAVILY COMMITTED BUDGET. RAE ADDED THAT IF MINISTERIAL
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LEVEL DECISION WAS TAKEN TO SHIFT PRESENT POSITION IN
ORDER TO PROVIDE SOME CAPITAL AID OR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
ASSISTANCE, FUNDS WHICH COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE ARE SO
LIMITED THAT GESTURE WOULD ONLY BE SYMBOLIC AND NOT
MEANINGFUL IN TERMS OF PRESENT CRISIS.

2. NONETHELESS, ODM MINISTER JUDITH HART HAS EXPRESSED

CONCERN OVER JAMAICAN SITUATION. EVIDENTLY SHE PLANS TO REVIEW, PRIOR TO MEETING WITH JAMAICAN MINISTERS AT COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE, POSSIBILITY OF MAKING SOME "SYMBOLIC" GESTURE. SHE WILL, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN FULLY BRIEFED BY ODM OFFICIALS OF BUDGETARY RESTRAINTS WHICH LIMIT HER FREEDOM OF ACTION. RAE ALSO MENTIONED THAT PRIME MIN MANLEY TOLD FCO MIN OF STATE ROWLANDS IN JANUARY THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD UK BUDGETARY PROBLEMS AND THAT IN LIGHT OF THESE HE WOULD NOT BE APPROACHING UKFOR BOP ASSISTANCE. FORMIN PATTERSON IS REPORTED TO HAVE RECONFIRMED THIS POSITION IN FIJI ALTHOUGH HE DID HOLD OUT POSSIBILITY OF REQUEST FOR FOOD AID AS WELL AS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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